

## SOLDIERS ON VILLA CHASE WRITE INTERESTING DETAILS OF DASH IN COUNTRY OVER MEXICAN BORDER

**Dodd's Cavalry Races Away From Supply Trains and Supports—Prices for Food Extortionate—Mexican Children Found to Be Truthful—How the Carranzistas Pass in Review.**

Washington, May 19.—Private letters and reports from the army in Mexico are beginning to arrive in Washington in sufficient numbers to afford a connected narrative of "inside facts" relative to the experiences of the American punitive expedition. These documents have not been censored. They are bristling with detail of human interest. The self-sacrifice and devotion to duty exhibited by the army under the most adverse circumstances are set forth as a mere matter of a day's work. Daylight and yet underneath it all is a serious strain of observation and deduction, and on the whole, there is no good for those who oppose the American army, once the leash is loosened. A connected narrative formed from these documents presents the following:

When the flying column of cavalry under Colonel Dodd, Howze and Brown left the border they carried with them rations for only two or three days. They were out of physical touch with the main supporting body from Columbus, N. M., but were subsequently picked up by the scouts, supply trains, and aero squadron from El Valle south. At El Valle, Colonel Dodd found a considerable number of wounded American soldiers who had participated in the Columbus raid, and these men, as far as possible, were sent back to Columbus. Colonel Dodd kept pushing on. When the first scouts caught up with the rear guard of the flying column at El Valle they discovered that Colonel Howze and his troops were at Santa Anna, 50 miles south, and upon arrival at that point they found a number of the wounded soldiers, several horses had died of "manic colic" due to sand getting mixed with their food, and that Colonel Dodd had not only left the only doctor attached to his force, but had pushed on south without medicine, doctor, sufficient food, or rations. The scouts proceeded on to Providencia, still to be told that Dodd was at least 40 miles west of that place, and still going. When his expedition was finally overhauled, it was found to be without army rations, without salt, sugar, or coffee, and living on Mexican tortillas, a sort of flap-jack made out of corn and water, the meal having been ground out of corn between flat rocks by the men themselves.

It was at this point that Colonel Dodd received information and orders which led to the famous 55-mile ride, mostly at night, to Guerrero, winding up in a running fight in which Villa's troops were badly wounded and lost a large number of killed and wounded. This ride and the subsequent fight will stand out as one of the brightest episodes of the whole expedition, not only for the results attained, but as an example of fortitude, endurance, and devotion to duty seldom, if ever, equaled in the history of the army.

**Efforts to Send Supplies.** While Dodd, Howze and Brown were working their way south unsupported either by supply trains or troops strenuous efforts were being made to supply these deficiencies. Food sent out on pack-mules, both with the flying column and subsequently, failed to meet the demand for the reason that the pack-mules ate as much as they carried. There was no other means of rapid transportation available, with the result that the War Department suddenly bought 200 motor trucks built and ready for delivery to France and diverted them to the border.

Immediately there was a mobilization of automobile drivers to handle these trucks. Most of them were civilian operators of "flivvers," and their experiences with the heavy motor trucks over the rough Mexican mountain trails, the soft valleys, and the frequent precipitous runs at right angles with the roadway were harrowing.

"Each truck had four speeds and a reverse," says one of the drivers. "I saw one driver on a steep hill work up to his third speed, and then, instead of hitting the fourth, he took the reverse. You can imagine better than I can describe what that truck did."

It took these trucks five days to make the trip from Columbus to San Antonio, about 300 miles. All this time the troops ahead were sticking to their track.

"The morale was excellent," says another informant. "The men were eager and anxious for a fight. Men who were actually sick enough to go to the hospital kept their troubles to themselves, for fear they would miss something. We were sorry to lose Lieut. Allison and a sergeant by pneumonia, but, on the whole, the men stood the hardships and the long drive in first-class shape. Neither Dodd nor Brown got a ration after they crossed the border. They requisitioned and paid for the stuff wherever they could find it. Brown even collected money from the whole crowd with which to buy food, and finally we ran out of that. Then we had to take the food and give receipts for it. Of course, the government will pay those bills. Finally, when we got to Cusi, Brown got \$1,100 on his personal check, vouchered for by Consul Fletcher at Chihuahua by telephone. This was what he did with it. He had to pay 50 cents a pound for sugar, \$1.25 a dozen for small cakes of perfumed soap that sell in any drugstore two for a nickel, and \$1 a pack, sold for cigarettes. He found a baker, the only fair man in the place, who sold corn and baked corn bread for the whole outfit, selling the cakes which would have cost one cent each at home for two cents each. We took all he could turn out. We also needed horseshoe nails badly. One Mexican had them all. When the colonel asked him how much he wanted for them, he named an outrageous price per nail.

"How do you sell them to these people who live here?" the colonel asked.

"Four for five cents," said the baker. Brown pulled up a box and sat down.

"Give me a nickel's worth," he said. The baker counted out four nails.

and the colonel solemnly handed him the nickel. Now give me [another nickel's worth]. The colonel kept that greaser counting out horseshoe nails in nickel lots until he got the whole supply."

**Cleaned Chihuahua of Supplies.** The first command to buy supplies in Chihuahua city practically "cleaned out the place," according to one report. "Here is a city of 60,000 people, and we have bought all it has to eat," it continues. "We bought all the bacon, flour, salt, sugar, coffee, gasoline, grease, and oil, and three carloads of hay, and could not find anything else to buy."

To supplement the supply trains, the Carranza government agreed to permit the use of the Mexican National railway from Juarez south, for "commercial purposes." No shipments were permitted to be made direct to the army, but a citizen in El Paso may ship to a merchant in Chihuahua or elsewhere army supplies to be sold. No American soldiers were permitted to accompany these consignments as a guard. Not more than a dozen cars of supplies ever reached the army in this way.

"Whatever else may be said of Villa he was a foxy diplomat in handling these people. He will never be charged with having taken anything from them without paying for it," says one letter. "While Villa seized what he wanted, he always paid for it in his own currency, and I guess he had as much right to issue it as the other fellow most of the time. The people here are crazy for our money. I bought a handful of Carranza money here today for souvenirs at two cents a peso."

**Market for Used Cans.** These are the prices received by American soldiers in Mexico for empty tin cans, according to a letter just received from an officer "somewhere in Mexico."

The soldiers did not realize what a "gold mine" tin cans were until they began to miss their "garbage pile," and later found the shining cans being used for cooking utensils or as water receptacles in the camps and huts. Thereafter they made a business of trading tin cans for food supplies. The prices received were: Five-gallon gasoline cans—\$1, or one chicken and four eggs.

Empty tomato cans—one egg. The officers' mess today had six dozen eggs on hand, which they took in for gasoline cans," says the letter. "They also had chicken. The boys are doing almost as well, although gasoline cans are not quite so numerous. When we get hold of a gasoline can now, we have to sleep on it or lose a chicken. When we have a meal of canned tomatoes, the cans will buy enough eggs to feed the whole squadron for the next meal. I wish I had a few backyards I have seen at home down here. I'd be a millionaire."

This is only one sample of the relations established between the American army and the Mexican natives with which it has come in contact. Reports received in Washington show that in the outlying districts the reception given the American soldiers has been, on the whole, friendly. In the towns, however, the performances of the Mexicans has not been so good. "Looting" has not occurred as frequently as was expected. A few salutary lessons put an end to that practice.

A motor-cycle courier who had to make a highway through a small town was fired at three times in one day. On his last trip a troop of cavalry followed him into town, and the town denied that any shots had been fired. Having ascertained who the prominent men of the town were, the commanding officer took three of them as hostages until the guilty party was produced. The command had not got out of town before he was surrendered, and there was no more "sniping." The same precautions had to be taken with wire-cutters. The first two Mexicans caught cutting the telegraph wires strung by the signal service were argued with so effectively that no more trouble of that kind was encountered.

Observing members of the army make no end of comment on the squalid conditions in which the average Mexican is now living, the absence of food in substantial quantities, and the generally filthy surroundings of most of the towns.

**Reliance Upon Children.** In the Mexican children, the soldiers have learned to place some reliance. One scout, who listened for half an hour to two Mexicans who were pretending to direct him to their headquarters, was attracted by the frequent laughter of the crowd of children who surrounded him. When the men had gone, he showed them his machine, got them interested, and then asked them what they were laughing at when he was talking with the Carranza soldiers. The children replied that they had told such big lies they could not help laughing, and the scout such simple directions that he caught up with his command without further trouble.

"Reviews" of Carranza troops have taken place frequently whenever an American troop or high commanding officer has met up with a Carranza garrison. While they have been solemn occasions for the Mexicans, the American soldiers have been interested and amused. As a result of these experiences, they have learned to divide all Mexican military figures by five. If Gen. Cano says he has 1,500 men, he means 300 men. If Villa claims he killed 100 men, he killed 20 men, and so on. The Mexican soldier, while a dangerous character in disposition, has been found, on the whole, not very efficient. Many of them are boys of 14 and even less. Of the "army" of 300 men commanded by Col. Cano, for whom great pretence was made of co-operation with Gen. Pershing, one-half was found to be under 14, and many of them mere boys, who had sawed off the ends of their rifles several inches, including the front sights. The Mexican soldier does not aim when he fires and cannot understand how the American soldiers can hit anything when lying on their stomachs.

As indicating the loyalty of the

Mexican soldier, one "army" reviewed by the American troops under the command of a colonel whose name frequently appears in the American press as a staunch Carranza supporter was found, after fraternizing with the American troops, to be carrying the red and green ribbon of Villa in its pockets to be put on at the first alarm of Villa's approach. Nevertheless, it was observed by the troops that much of Villa's prestige fell away among the common people upon the mere report that he had been wounded.

The American soldiers have about come to the conclusion that when a fight starts in Mexico, by accident or otherwise, everybody with a gun shoots to save himself but with no real intention of hitting anybody else. It is not an infrequent occurrence to find men, boys and women engaged in the same battle on both sides.

"The women do the hard work, any way so why not let them have the fun of fighting for their recreation," was the way one soldier put the case in a recent letter.

There is one real menace to the American troops in Mexico—dysentery. It is particularly prevalent in the neighborhood of Namiquipa. As a result, the soldiers and natives in this section are not permitted to exchange visits between the town and the camp, which is several miles out in the country.

### PARK THEATRE

**Inaugural of New Policy—May 22, with High Class Vaudeville and Photoplay Features.**

An event of considerable importance in local theatricals will be the opening of the Park Theatre with a new policy of high class vaudeville and photoplay features, on Monday, May 22. The house will be entirely renovated and an atmosphere of good cheer will pervade everywhere on the occasion of the inaugural of the new policy. Considerable interest is manifested in the announcement, since Bridgeport has had almost nothing in vaudeville entertainment the market has afforded, but the sponsors of the Park theatre venture promises something entirely new to Bridgeport in this particular line and the opening performance is looked for with keen interest. While no definite announcement has been made about the opening bill, it is rumored that the list will include many startling features and a number of surprises. The patrons of the Park theatre are said to be in for a rare treat during the coming week and all eyes are directed toward the Park and everybody will be there.—Adv.

### WARN JITNEY DRIVERS NOT TO PARK AUTOS IN STRATFORD STREETS

(Special to the Farmer.)

Stratford, May 19.—Because of numerous complaints warning has again been issued to the jitney drivers who have been parking their cars on Bruce and Stratford avenues, blocking traffic and at times making the thoroughfares so crowded that passengers are unable to board trolley cars without endangering their lives. The jitney men have been notified not to park their machines on these thoroughfares. The selectmen at a recent meeting issued an edict forbidding them to allow their jitneys to stand at these points. A special policeman will be placed at that section of the town and will arrest violators.

A novelty shower in honor of Miss Emma Botsford of Huntington road, who will become the bride of Oliver Smith of Milford, was given last evening by about 30 of her friends. The affair was held in the rooms of the National Athletic club, Huntington road. Many beautiful and costly gifts of silver, cut glass, china and linen were given Miss Botsford. Dancing was enjoyed throughout the evening.

A large and appreciative audience listened to the illustrated lecture on Japan given last evening at the Congregational church parish house under the auspices of the Mission league of the church. The lecturer was Dr. Alfred Fones of Bridgeport. The proceeds of the lecture will be given to the missionary fund.

The gypsies who have been making Avon park their camping ground have been ordered out of the town by Special Policeman Edward Mann. It is believed that some of the members of the tribe have been stealing chickens from some of the nearby residents.

The members of the senior class of the Stratford High school will present the play, "Our Mutual Friend," this evening at Red Men's hall, Church street. The play is under the supervision of Miss M. E. McDonald.

The scenes of the play are laid in London. Act 1. In the dining room of the Wilfer home. Act 2-3. On the veranda of the Boffin home. Act 4. The dining room of the Wilfer home.

The cast of characters is as follows: Bella Wilfer, the lovely woman, Dorothy Peck; Mrs. Wilfer, majestic ma, Gladys Merrill; Lavina Wilfer, old enough to be engaged, Catherine Russell; Mrs. Boffin, a dear of dear, Carl Pederson; John Roke-smith, our mutual friend, Harold Dunbar; R. Wilfer, rusty, ruddy, round, Robert Luce; Mr. Boffin, the golden dustman, Russell Noyes; George Anderson, the friend of the family, Henry Anderson.

At the Stratford M. E. church, Sunday, Rev. Ernest C. Carpenter, the pastor, will preach morning and evening. Topic for the morning, "A Reasonable Religion." In the evening the third of the series of sermons on "Four Easy Ways to Go Wrong—The Woman's Way." Women especially are invited to be present.

It is expected that a large crowd will be out to enjoy the entertainment by Emil Closs. The music that he can get from his large collection of bells is remarkable. He plays all sorts of popular and sacred airs on the bells, and thereby getting most beautiful music. "Brighten the Corner" is one of the selections played. This entertainment is given under the auspices of the church music committee.

An interesting program has been arranged by the pupils of Nichols avenue school for Saturday afternoon when the members of the Stratford club of Nichols avenue, will present to the school a beautiful silk flag. It is expected that the members of the board of education will be present. Supt. William Kelsey will accept the flag in behalf of the school. The entertainment will begin at 3 o'clock.

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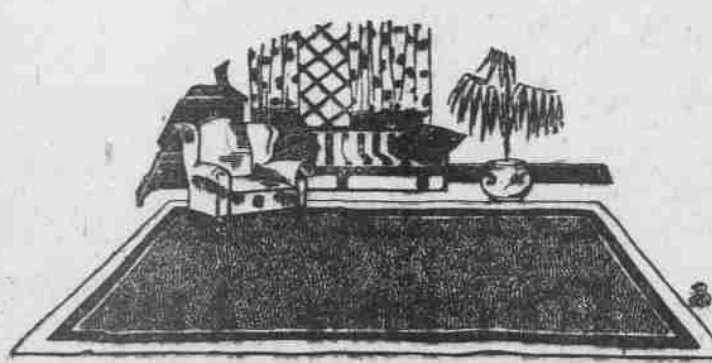
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Printed Cork Linoleum ..... 50c sq. yd.

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### SUED FOR DIVORCE MRS. KILPATRICK IS GIVEN DECREE

After a sensational trial, Fannie Kilpatrick of this city, was awarded a divorce from James R. Kilpatrick, electrical contractor, by Judge Webb in the superior court yesterday afternoon. The decision was given on a

cross complaint in which Mrs. Kilpatrick charged intemperance and cruelty. Kilpatrick brought the original action, alleging infidelity. The court ruled that this charge had not been substantiated. Attorneys DeForest & Klein represented Mrs. Kilpatrick and Judge William H. Comley, Jr., appeared for Kilpatrick.

### ATTRACTIVE FEATURES FOR QUILTY RECEPTIONS

Two very attractive features of Quilly's annual costume exhibition of his dancing classes which will be held in the Colonial ballroom on Friday evening, May 26, at 8:30 o'clock will be the "Song and Dance of the Cooks," in which the following will take part: Cyril Phelan, Dorothy

O'Brien, Alice Washburn, Kenneth Lund, Marie Burns, Dorothy Deane, Evelyn Flynn and Sarah House, and the Chinese Umbrella Dance, which will be given by Alice Washburn, Sarah House, Gertrude Burns, Helen O'Reilly, Magda Nelson, Margaret Grotz, Ruth Simonsen, and Dorothy Phelan. Both of these dances will be given in costume. Murray's orchestra is to furnish the music for the evening.